

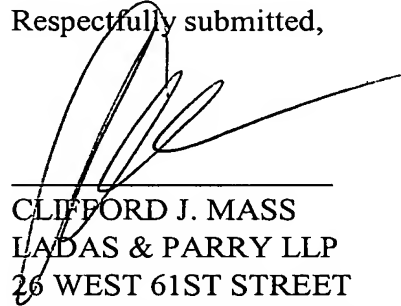
REMARKS

In response to the requirement for restriction in the Official Action of 16 December 2005, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute in the present application the claims of Group III, i.e., claims 115-117, with traverse. This election is made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application or applications directed to the non-elected claims.

This election is respectfully made with traverse insofar as the Examiner has respectfully not met the USPTO burden of showing both two-way distinctness and reasons for insisting on restriction between the two or more related process inventions which are being claimed, as required by MPEP Section 806.05(j)). For example, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not shown that the claims do not overlap in scope as required for restriction between two or more related process inventions (see MPEP Section 806.05(j)). Indeed, Applicants respectfully submit that the processes as claimed do overlap in scope as evidenced by the fact that Applicants have now rewritten the non-elected process claims as dependent from the elected process claims. In any event, since all of the process claims now depend from elected process claim 115, if and when claim 115 is considered to be in allowable form, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of the non-elected process claims depending therefrom and thus containing all of the limitations thereof.

In view of the above, Applicants have responded completely to the sole requirement in the Official Action, and now respectfully request an early examination on the merits of at least the elected claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford J. Mass", is written over a horizontal line.

CLIFFORD J. MASS
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